

Upper Delaware Council
WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
May 17, 2011

Committee Members Present: Chase, Boyar, McKay, Rando
Committee Members Absent: Ritter, Shafer
NPS Partner: Hamilton
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: None

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Vice-Chairperson Phil Chase called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. A motion by Boyar seconded by Rando to approve the April 19 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Update: Ramie reported that the byway committee held its annual meeting on April 25, during which election of officers took place. Elected were: Chairperson Nadia Rajsz (Lumberland), Vice-Chair Edward Boyer (Tusten), and Secretary-Treasurer Larry H. Richardson (Cochecton). The UDSB board approved sending a support letter to the NYS Department of Transportation requesting the installation of additional directional signage in Sullivan County for the Grover Hermann Hospital Division of Catskill Regional Medical Center located in Callicoon. During discussion, members wondered who would pay for the signs, the state or the hospital, and suggested that listing the distance to the facility would be helpful. A member with connections to emergency services said that the Department of Health is changing its rules regarding hospital signage. New signs will use symbols that reflect the type of facility that it is, such as whether it has a helipad. It is also believed that the H signs must be located every three miles within a certain radius from the facility. The byway group will reach out to Bon Secours Hospital in Port Jervis to determine whether they are satisfied with the adequacy of directional signage. If not, they would send a similar letter.

The UDSB board agreed to allocate a \$25,000 New York State grant, TM08104, to a matching funds marketing program. The Sullivan County Visitors Association offered a list of UDSB ad purchases in newspapers, radio, and magazines that would total a UDSB investment of \$28,750 but yield an added value of \$105,800. "Added value" is the actual cost or rack card rate value of the ad plus any additional editorial or web exposure negotiated into the pricing. The proposed work plan for the grant must now be sent to the NYS Department of Economic Development (DED) for approval.

Thirdly, the UDSB board approved taking a half-page ad in a new brochure by the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce to be called a "Recreation and Activities Guide to the Great Western Catskills", with 50,000 copies to be heavily distributed in the day trip drive area.

The committee reviewed a sign design concept prepared by its graphic design consultant for the UDSB Community Signage project and made some changes. The next step is for the eight byway municipalities to provide their local content for the customized, 2 x 4-foot outdoor panels, which was requested by May 16. Each will receive a 150-200 word narrative and space for one photo.

Ramie reported last month that NYS Grant M060091 had lapsed, according to information she had received from the grant administrator at DED. UDSB, Inc. had already approved six beautification projects to expend an \$18,750 balance of the original \$50,000 grant, but she immediately advised the project sponsors to stop work when it appeared that the grant had not been re-appropriated. Several days later, the DED contact said she had made a mistake and that the funding was still intact. On Apr. 28, UDSB, Inc. submitted a revised scope of work for those six projects and requested an extension of the contract period beyond the current Aug. 31, 2011 deadline.

The committee approved a plan to add more business listings to its website by approaching five chambers of commerce in the river corridor with a proposal to add their member listings to upperdelawarescenicbyway.org for a nominal fee. The first request was made to the Callicoon Business Association, which accepted. In other promotional news, W Design has set up a Facebook page for UDSB.

Representatives from UDSB participated in an April 20 meeting with U.S. Representative Nan Hayworth at her Goshen district office. The meeting was called by the Town of Deerpark and Orange

County to discuss the NYS DEC Sparrowbush Access property. This is considered a vital access location on the river for emergency services in addition to its public recreational use. Discussions about how to preserve the access for public use through various partnership opportunities are ongoing.

The next UDSB, Inc. monthly meeting will be held on Monday, May 23.

Pond Eddy Bridge Update: Ramie reported on the Pond Eddy Bridge Project Consultants' Team teleconference that took place on May 3. She and Douglass participated. On April 27, the NY and PA Departments of Transportation met with the New York State Historic Preservation Office (NYSHPO) in Binghamton. As a result of that meeting, NYSHPO has decided to re-engage in the Section 106 consultation process that is required due to the 1904 bridge's listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The agency has requested a few changes to the documentation pertaining to the attempts that were made to market the existing bridge. NY and PA continue to both favor replacement of the bridge. The next step is to issue an "adverse effect" determination report, provide a 30-45 day review period, and get agency sign-off on a Memorandum of Agreement. They discussed a mid- to late summer timeframe to start convening a Design Advisory Committee and mentioned the need to issue another newsletter to update everyone. The next teleconference will be on June 7. Douglass said it's a good step that NY and PA are now united in their call for a new bridge. The intent is to go forward and they want to do it right.

D&H Transportation Heritage Council Update: Ramie reported that the D&H Transportation Heritage Council held its quarterly meeting on Apr. 20 in Wurtsboro. There is a focus on increasing membership to include more representation from the six NY and PA counties through which the canal route passes. Dues for voting members are \$40 per year.

The website at dhthc.org will be enhanced through the addition of a series of informational videos about the D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad. The videos will be about 5-7 minutes in length and include historic and modern footage and interviews, much like in the documentary style of Ken Burns. Additional print materials about the canal system are being added as well to make the website more of a repository for this subject.

Member accomplishments, concerns, and upcoming events were shared by representatives from the Town of Mamakating, Ulster County, Carbondale, Waymart, UDC, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, Orange County, and Sullivan County.

The next quarterly meeting of DHTHC will take place on Wednesday, July 20, at Sullivan County's new D&H museum in Summitville.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update: Douglass provided background information on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Upper Delaware River Corridor, a grant project that Sullivan County Planning is coordinating. Planner Heather Jacksy has been attending local government meetings to explain the program. On Jan. 28, the first brainstorming session to launch the grant initiative took place here at the UDC office attended by 30-40 people. On May 4, the LWRP committee met in Hortonville with about a dozen people present. Heather will send out meeting notes soon. At the next meeting set for June 23 from noon to 2 p.m. in Narrowsburg, tourism expert Dr. Peter Tarlow will address the committee. Lunch will be served. All of the municipalities are invited. Douglass said he was not yet aware of the specific location for that meeting.

River of the Year Update: The committee received copies of a brochure produced for the 2011 PA River of the Year, depicting the "River of Life" logo and theme that was selected for the Delaware River's designation. Information on the Delaware River Sojourn and other River of the Year events is available online at riveroftheyear.com. Ramie announced that the Delaware River Sojourn has named admirals for its first two days in the Upper Delaware section. On June 18, Dolores Keesler of Damascus will serve as Lady High Admiral. On June 19, Dr. Peter Kolesar and Jim Serio are being jointly recognized as Lord High Admirals. On June 20, the Sojourn will take place on the Lackawaxen River. Admiral selections have not been announced for this day. The UDC took a hiatus from the Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee in 2011 but does participate as a partner organization on the PA River of the Year Steering Committee.

Other: Rando reported that the Hawks Nest section of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway on NYS Route 97 is down to a single lane with two traffic lights on either side while crews repair some of the overlook walls. This construction zone could create a problem for emergency response vehicles. It's about a 10-

minute wait in either direction. A couple of the walls are gone. Chase said he thought they had concrete barriers in place for safety purposes. In other business, Chase observed that the river was high earlier due to the wet spring but today it's down. Maybe the reservoirs have stopped spilling. Soete said that Cannonsville is still spilling a little.

New Business

Report: DRBC's Regulated Flow Advisory Committee (RFAC) Meeting, May 5: Chase said that he wasn't able to attend since it was held the same day as the last UDC meeting. He did send in four or five questions that they answered. The replies are on the DRBC's website. Boyar noted that the Flexible Flow Management Program expires on May 31. The new, one-year interim plan was to start on June 1, but it seems it hasn't gone any further with discussions. Will the old or new program go forward? Isn't it up to the DRBC to keep this timeframe? Chase replied that he thinks the DRBC extended the time to implement the new program. Boyar said it's not a surprise that the FFMP is ending. They had all the input from the White Paper. This just needs a few tweaks. Where does the buck stop on this, with Carol Collier? Douglass affirmed that the DRBC executive director would have that information.

Informational Handouts: The committee was provided with handouts that included: *Pike County Dispatch* article, Apr. 28, "One-lane Boating During Bridge Repair" (Pond Eddy Bridge emergency repairs); DRBC Meeting and Public Hearing Notice for May 11; Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Proposed Rulemaking, May 14, (proposed total closure for the Delaware River herring fishery); and NPS Upper Delaware News Release, May 10, "Coming Soon to a River Near You: Summer Paddle and River Clean-up for High School Students". McKay inquired about the closure of the river herring season for the Delaware River, West Branch Delaware River and River Estuary. Soete said that the proposed rulemaking amounts to a language change. The old rule is contained in brackets on the handout. Chase commented that it looks like good shad fishing here now. There were lots of anglers at the PA Access across the Narrowsburg Bridge. Soete said that the anglers reported seeing bucks mainly, not roe. Hamilton asked how far upriver they are catching shad. Boyar said that he heard of someone catching a shad in Deposit. The season started earlier this year. Regarding the May 11 DRBC meeting notice, Soete referenced the docket on XTO Energy, Inc. for a surface water withdrawal for natural gas exploration and production. They will be holding off on any action until a public hearing can be convened near the Delaware River headwaters due to the large number of comments received. The date and location will be determined.

Public Comment None

Adjournment A motion by McKay seconded by Rando to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. was carried.